THE NONAGON

FALL – 1989

NEW HAMPSHIRE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

NEW HAMPSHIRE Type 1

NEW HAMPSHIRE Type 2

New Hampshire Type 3

3207 New Hampshire Agricultural Society medal, 1869. AM-56. Silver. 60mm. 98.92 gms. Uncirculated. From dies designed by Herrick and engraved by William Barber Awarded in 1869 for the best barley in the society's competition. The obverse features a standing figure of Victory, holding a wreath in her right hand and resting her left hand upon a shield bearing a representation of the arms of the state of New Hampshire At her feet are implements of agriculture and industry. The reverse award has been attractively hand-engraved. The wreath surrounding the inscription is composed of agricultural products.

(Curtesy Bowers & Merena)

Similar Massachussetts Medal

THE NASHUA COIN CLUB WILL HOLD COIN/STAMP SHOW

The Nashua Coin Club is holding their first semi-annual coin/stamp show Oct. 21-22 at St Philip Church Hall, Exit 5W off Rt. 3 Everett Turnpike, 500 West Hollis St. (R.111) in Nashua. Hours are 10 to 6 Saturday and 10 to 5 Sunday. There will be an auction at 7 P.M. Saturday.

Gary Galbo, Box 7848, Nashua, N. H, 03060 is bourse chairman for the show. The show will be open to dealers with bourse tables from 8 A.M. to A.M. each day. The Nashua Coin has a history of putting on excellent shows as they have hosted New Hampshire Numismatic Assn. shows on many oocasions and have an excellent corps of experienced members to assist. There will be an exciting raffle at the show.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The N. H. N. A. annual convention in Concord last April was very successful with a full bourse and good attendance. There was a good variety of interesting exhibits. The following officers were elected at the business meeting: President, Ed St. Onge, Nashua; Vice President, Mike Nelson, Dover; Second V.P., Robert Wester, Suncook; Sec.-Treas., Sam Allen, Dover; Corresponding Secretary & Nonagon editor, Wayne Rich, Concord.

The N.H.N.A. Fall meeting will be held at the Nashua Coin Show, from 6 to 7 P.M. Saturday. The Nashua Club will host the 1990 Spring show.

DUES DUES DUES

Secretary-Treasurer Sam Allen, Box 1655, Dover, N. H. 03820 has made it easy to tell if you owe dues. Your address label will indicate Life Member (LM) or the year that you owe dues. 88 means you owe dues of $2. for this year and also $2 for this year. 89 means you owe only $2 for this year. 90 means you are paid for nex year etc. Many members pay five or more years at a time to save postage and bother. Better still is becoming a life member for only $25.00 . Why not take care of your membership NOW and avaoid the chance of being dropped for nonpayment of dues.

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WANTED - ARTICLES FOR NONAGON - WANTED. PLEASE

Swnd to Wayne S. Rich, Box 391, Concord, N.H. 03302

TRI-STATE COLLECTORS' EXHIBITION OCTOBER 28 & 29 IN CONCORD, N. H.

The 34th annual Tri-State Collectors' Exhibition will be held in Concord Communi Center, 39 Green St. (back of City Hall) i.. Concord, N. H. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 28 and 29, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. An auction will be held on Saturday at 4:30 P.M.

Many fine trophies are offerd for exhibi of coins, stamps, and collectibles with the Governor's Trophy for Best of Show. Robert Wester, 54 High St. Extension, Suncook, N. . o3275 is Exhibit Chairman. He will send a brochure with exhibit classes, score card, and list of trophies to anyone interested exhibiting. His phone id 485-9920. Show cards and exhibit frames are available.

Bourse ohairman Kenneth Pancher, 14 Rosedale St. Hooksett, N.H. reports over 30 tables sold so there will be plenty of material for every collector. There will be wooden nickels and Fred Brofow, Warner has prepared a cachet for show covers.

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NUMISMATI CALENDAR

Oct. 21-22, Nashua Coin Show, St Philip Churc Exit 5W, off Rt. 3, Everett Turnpike (Rt. 111

Oct. 26-29, Collectorfest, Royal Ridge Mall, Rt. 3, Exit 1, Nashua, N. H.

Oct. 28-29. Tri-state Collectors' Exhibition Concord Community Center, 39 Green St.,Concord

Oct. 8, Lakes Region Coin Show, Inn of All Seasons, 480 Main St., Laconia, N.H.

Nov. 5, and each month, Firsh Sunday Skow Holiday Inn, Portsmouth Traffic Circle

Oct. 19, Nov. 19, etc. Third Sunday Show Holiday Inn, Exit 4, Nashua, N. H.

Nov. 5, Gorham Coin Club Show, Portland, Me Holiday Inn, Exit 8, Maine Turnpike

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We were pleased to see Kenneth Bressett, formerly of Keene, a founder of Cheshire County Numismatic Assn. , elected Director of American Numismatic Association.

The Award Medals of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society

The New Hampshire Agricultural Society was founded in the autumn of 1849 and inorporated during a session of the state legislature in 1850.

Honorable Richard Ayer of Manchester was the Societies first President with ten Vice-presidents assuring representation for all New Hampshire counties.

The object of the Society was to improve the condition of agriculture which played and important role in our economy. Other advancements included mechanics, domestic arts, and manufacturers.

Their award medals reflect all the objectives and aims of the Society, and they commenced by awarding 31 medals at their second fair in 1851. Agricultural products, livestock, manufactured goods, and farm implements received the awards.

We are most fortunate to illustrate the Societies first and rarest known type of award medal. It is believed to have been given from 1851 through the 11th. annual fair in 1860. The Societies volumes record 270 medals awarded. Being awarded a medal was extremely prestigious and highly valued by New England businessmen and Mr. O.W. Bayley, agent for Amoskeag Machine Co. which manufactured locomotive engines, perferred the Societies medal to the 20 dollar cash preimum in 1853.

The New Hampshire Agricultural Society ceased activities during the Civil War. In 1866 the 12th annual fair was conducted in Nashua, N.H. and the second type of award medal was given there. This medal is known in silver and hand engraved on both sides. Only two are known to exist, the one illustrated and a holed example from the 14th annual fair in Manchester. The number of medals awarded is not indicated in the Society journals from 1866 through 1869.

It seemed logical for the Society to adopt a new award medal following the Civil War. I believe less than a hundred hand engraved type two medals were awarded due to the average number of awards given between 1851 through 1860.

It was extremely important for our society to have a beautiful and prestigious award medal. The industrial revolution had begun and the society was in the best financial and active position in its history. So naturally, with intense competition , prestigious award medals were given, which created motivation at the annual fair by competitors.

The third and last type of New Hampshire Agricultural Medals is easily the most beautiful. It was engraved by Charles Barber and struck at the United States Mint in 1870 according to Robert Julian author of "Medals of the U.S Mint," 1792-1892. The obverse features a standing lady of victory holding a wreath in her right hand and resting her left hand on a shield bearing representation of the arms of the state of New Hampshire

At her feet are the implements of agriculture and industry. The reverse of this medals is identical to the New England Agricultural Societies, a wreath of agricultural products around its edge with the center reserved for award inscription.

233 silver and 221 bronze medals were struck in 59 and 48 mm. The large and small silver medals are followed in rarity by the two bronzes in their respective sizes. Mint records do not indicate a gold medal as being struck.

The earliest known type 3 medal which is mint struck appeared in "Four Memorable Collections", a September 1985 sale by Bowers And Merena.

As stated in their lot 3207, the medal is awarded with the date 1869 plainly engraved. According to Bob Julian, mint records indicate the medal to be struck in 1870. This is indeed an extremely interesting problem for a specialist's solution.

It is believed by the author that lot 3207 was reviewed and approved as the offical award medal by the board of directors in 1869. This is the only known type 3 award medal for that year and may very well be transitional. This due to the possibility that all remaining type 2 hand engraved award medals had been given in 1869.

It is truly a pleasure to read and browse through the Societies' journals. The early years gave accurate accounts of awards their recipients. The latter years are confined to the development of agriculture.

The awards were given for weather vanes, good horsemanship and Concord grape wine. In 1873 a most attractive feature was a fine collection of coins assembled by Phineas Adams. The good Colonel is the only known New Hampshire collector to own an 1804 silver dollar.

In the year 1866 the N.H. Agricultural Society fair was renamed as the N.H. State Grange Fair. The fair was held annually in Tilton for many years. The only gold medal recorded was given in 1888 to J.G. Tallant of East Concord, N.H. by the Jersey Bulletin of Indianapolis, Indiana for the best 5 lb. batch of Jersey butter. The gold medal was valued at 25 dollars.

There are no other awards listed thorugh 1900 in the Societies journals. To my knowledge no hoard of unawarded medals has surfaced so we may presume the entire amount struck were awarded over the years prior to 1890.

Collecting and researching New Hampshire as well as New England medals which were struck at the United States Mint is a most interesting pursuit.

Two possibly three New England collections have been completed this century and according to rarity and importance, the New England Society for the Promotion of Manufacturers and Mechanic Arts award medal in silver is the highlight of a collecition. Christian Gobrecht of liberty seated coinage fame is the engraver of this medal of which ten or less are known in silver. The six New England State Medals are listed here in order of their respective rarity. Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The only medal not struck at the mint is the state of Rhode Island.

There is much original research remaining in award medals of New England and you may participate and enjoy them. Who knows? You may also be as fortunate as the gentleman who most recently located the only known gold medal award of the Bay State Agricultural Society of Massachusetts. This medal was engraved by Henry Mitchell and was struck at the U.S Mint and is known as AM-7 in Mr. Julian's fine book.

Should you have an opportunity someday, visit the Manchester Historic Association on Amherst Street. That society has the largest collection known to me of New Hampshire Agricultural medals which numbers ten. A type two and the remaining nine are type three. They are in a lovely 1880 vintage frame and the medals are secured around the edge with old-fashioned nails which have not damaged the medals as I remember.

In closing, please let me thank Bowers and Merena Rare Coin Galleries for their photography and comments on lot 3207 of their Four Memorable Collections sale. Also the fine staff at the New Hampshire State Agricultural Department for their assistance and for the use of their fine library on the detailed history of our state's early Agricultural history.

Robert Wester
Pembroke, NH

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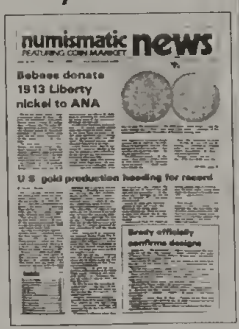

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